Report of the Committee on pay scale anomalies of the Central Government employees

*145. SHRI P. M. KHAN:
SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whehter it is a fact that the high powered Cornmittee set up by the Central Government to look into the grievances of the Central Go vernment employees in regard to the anomalies in their Pay scales, as re commended by the Fourth Pay Com mission, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Committee has recommended the pay seal,, of Rs. 1640-60-2600-EB-75-2900 for the category of Assistants; and

(d) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto and by when the orders in regard to the implementa-
dsxi of the recommendations made by the Committee ar$_e$ proposed to be issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND. THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHI-pAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. 'Appropriate Anomalies Committees under the JCM Scheme, consisting Of representatives of the official side and the staff side to settle the anomalies arising out of the implementation of the 4th Pay Commissions recommendations are being set up. These Committees would function within the broad pre-determined parametres finalised in consultation with the staff representatives.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Indo-US discussions on technology transfer

*146. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA;
SHRl GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian and US Officials had held discussions in the US recently on the question of approving US technology transfer to India under the 1983 'Memoran dum of Understanding'; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussions held and the out come thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Indian and US officials met in Washington on the 20th and 21st January, 1988, to review the implementation procedures of the Indo-US Memorandum Of Understanding on Technology Transfer of November 1984.

(b) The review meeting resulted in streamlining some procedures to-facilitate greater trade and collaboration in advanced technology between India and the USA.

Capturing of six mercantile ships by the Pakistan Navy

*147. SHRI J. P. GOYAL:
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state. -

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report published in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 18th January, 1988 to the effect that Pakistan Marine

Security Agency and Navy had recently captured six mercantile ships on their way to India;

(b) if so, what are the reasons thereof;

(c) whether any protest ha$_a$ been lodged with Pakistan in this regard; and

(d) what efforts have so far been made for their release?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRT K\ NATWAR SINGH); (a) Yes, Sir. However, according to information avilable with Government, only three Indian sailing vessels have been captured by the Pakistan authorities during January 1988.

(b) No reasons have been given by the Government of Pakistan.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government have urged the Government of Pakistan to release the vessels and their crew. The latter has agreed to consider the matter.

Special courts with women judges

*148. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any representation from any Women's Organisation in regard to the setting up of special courts with women judges to deal with atrocities on women and dowry deaths; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI BINDESHWARI DUBEY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Soft line of credit to Burma by India

*149. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to extend a soft line of credit tO Burma f°r facilitating project ex ports and boosting two-way trade;
if so, what are the details thereof; ; and

(b) what has been the mutual im port and export position of the two countries in the last three years and what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER) OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. During PM's visit to Burma on the 15th and lfith of December, 1987, an offer of a grant of Rs. 100 million was made for the establishment of an Industrial project in Burma with Indian knowhow and equipment.

(b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House. (See below).

Two way trade is presently at a low level because of the absence of regular shipping, stoppage of rice imports, shortage of foreign exchange with Burma and inadequate communications facilities.